

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: February 5, 2004

Signature: 

Eric M. Brusca

\$ DATE

Docket No.: 27013/38150
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

O I P E
FEB 09 2004

re Patent Application of:
Lutz Gissman and Martin Mueller

Application No.: 10/042,526

Group Art Unit: 1648

Filed: January 8, 2002

Examiner: Not Assigned

For: Papilloma Virus Capsomere Vaccine
Formulations and Methods of Use

FEB 12 2004

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

MS Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This petition is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.181(a) to request withdrawal of a holding of abandonment for asserted failure to reply to a Notice to File Missing Parts mailed on February 13, 2002.

Applicants submit that a response (a copy of which is attached as **Exhibit A**) to the Notice to File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application was filed on April 15, 2002. The response included the fee for a one month extension of time pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17(a) as indicated on a Fee Transmittal form (a copy of which is attached as **Exhibit B**) which was filed concurrently with the response. Even though the Applicants did not include a petition for the extension of time, 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3) states that "submission of the fee set forth in 1.17(a) will also be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission." The response was therefore timely filed. Also attached is a date-stamped post card (attached as **Exhibit C**) returned from the Patent Office showing that the response and the fee were received on April 29, 2002.

Adjustment date: 05/05/2004 SDIRETA1

02/10/2004 SDIRETA1 00000026 10042526
-130.00 OP
01 FC.1400

Receipt/Ref: 05/05/2004 SDIRETA1 0013321500
DMS:102653 Name/Number:10042526
FC: 3E04 \$130.00 CR

Attached herewith is a check in the amount of \$130.00 to cover the basic petition filing fee pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17(h). However, Applicants request that any over-payment be refunded to deposit account number 13-2855.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that this petition to withdrawal the holding of abandonment be granted.

Dated: February 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Eric M. Brusca
Registration No.: 52,664
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
233 S. Wacker Drive
6300 Sears Tower
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(312) 474-6300
Attorneys for Applicant

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lutz Gissman and Martin
Mueller

Application Serial No. 10/042,526

Filed: January 8, 2002

For: Papilloma Virus Capsomere
Vaccine Formulations and Methods of
Use

Group Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: TBD

) I hereby certify that this paper is being
deposited with the United States Postal
Service as First Class mail, postage
prepaid, in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, Washington,
D.C. 20231, on April 15, 2002.

)

Eric M. Brusca

**APPLICANTS' RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF
NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In a Notice to File Missing Parts mailed February 2, 2002, various items
were found to be missing in the above-identified application.

REMARKS

In order to avoid abandonment of the instant application, the Applicants
file herewith a check covering the statutory basic filing fee and a late filing fee of \$130 as
set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(l).

Additionally, a substitute specification in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52 is
submitted herewith. The Applicants would like to point out that pages 1 and 2 of the
specification have been corrected.

A copy of the Sequence Listing in computer readable form and
corresponding statement that the content of the Sequence Listing information recorded in
computer readable form is identical to the written Sequence Listing has been previously
filed in the related application U.S.S.N 09/632,286. Thus, the Applicants submit that in
accordance with 37 CFR 1.821(e), the sequence listing in the instant application is
identical to that of U.S.S.N 09/632,286. The Applicants request that the computer-
readable sequence listing in U.S.S.N 09/632,286 be entered in the present application.

AMENDMENTS

In the specification:

Please replace the specification as originally filed with the substitute specification submitted herewith (attached hereto as **Appendix A**). A marked-up copy of the substitute specification appears in **Appendix B** which indicates where the changes have been made. The Applicants hereby state that the substitute specification includes no new matter.

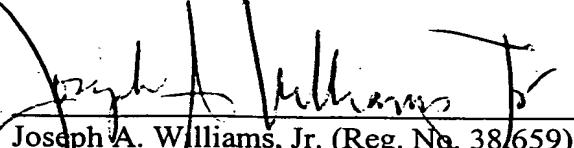
SUMMARY

In view of the amendments and remarks made herein, the Applicants believes that the application is formal and in good standing.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

By


Joseph A. Williams, Jr. (Reg. No. 38659)
6300 Sears Tower
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LINE

- 1 -

PAPILLOMA VIRUS CAPSOMERE VACCINE FORMULATIONS AND METHODS OF USE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to vaccine formulations comprising papilloma virus proteins, either as fusion proteins, truncated proteins, or truncated fusion proteins. The invention further embraces methods for producing capsomeres of the formulations, as well as prophylactic and therapeutic methods for their use.

BACKGROUND

Infections with certain high-risk strains of genital papilloma viruses in humans (HPV) -- for example, HPV 16, 18, or 45 -- are believed to be the main risk factor for the formation of malignant tumors of the anogenital tract. Of the possible malignancies, cervical carcinoma is by far the most frequent: according to an estimate by the World Health Organization (WHO), almost 500,000 new cases of the disease occur annually. Because of the frequency with which this pathology occurs, the connection between HPV infection and cervical carcinoma has been extensively examined, leading to numerous generalizations.

For example, precursor lesions of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) are known to be caused by papilloma virus infections [Crum, *New Eng. J. Med.* 310:880-883 (1984)]. DNA from the genomes of certain HPV types, including for example, strains 16, 18, 33, 35, and 45, have been detected in more than 95% of tumor biopsies from patients with this disorder, as well as in primary cell lines cultured from the tumors. Approximately 50 to 70% of the biopsied CIN tumor cells have been found to include DNA derived only from HPV 16.

The protein products of the HPV 16 and HPV 18 early genes E6 and E7 have been detected in cervical carcinoma cell lines as well as in

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human keratinocytes transformed *in vitro* [Wettstein, *et al.*, in PAPILLOMA VIRUSES AND HUMAN CANCER, Pfister (Ed.), CRC Press: Boca Raton, FL 1990 pp 155-179] and a significant percentage of patients with cervical carcinoma have anti-E6 or anti-E7 antibodies. The E6 and E7 proteins 5 have been shown to participate in induction of cellular DNA synthesis in human cells, transformation of human keratinocytes and other cell types, and tumor formation in transgenic mice [Arbelt, *et al.*, *J. Virol.*, 68:4358-4364 (1994); Auewarakul, *et al.*, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 14:8250-8258 (1994); 10 Barbosa, *et al.*, *J. Virol.* 65:292-298 (1991); Kaur, *et al.*, *J. Gen. Virol.* 70:1261-1266 (1989); Schlegel, *et al.*, *EMBO J.*, 7:3181-3187 (1988)]. The constitutive expression of the E6/E7 proteins appears to be necessary to maintain the transformed condition of HPV-positive tumors.

Despite the capacity of some HPV strains to induce neoplastic phenotypes *in vivo* and *in vitro*, still other HPV types cause 15 benign genital warts such as condylomata acuminata and are only rarely associated with malignant tumors [Ikenberg. In Gross, *et al.*, (eds.) GENITAL PAPILLOMAVIRUS INFECTIONS. Springer Verlag: Berlin, pp., 87-112]. Low risk strains of this type include, for example, HPV 6 and 11.

Most often, genital papilloma viruses are transmitted between 20 humans during intercourse which in many instances leads to persistent infection in the anogenital mucous membrane. While this observation suggests that either the primary infection induces an inadequate immune response or that the virus has developed the ability to avoid immune surveillance, other observations suggest that the immune system is active 25 during primary manifestation as well as during malignant progression of papilloma virus infections [Altmann *et al.* in VIRUSES AND CANCER, Minson *et al.*, (eds.) Cambridge University Press, (1994) pp. 71-80].

For example, the clinical manifestation of primary infection 30 by rabbit and bovine papilloma virus can be prevented by vaccination with wart extracts or viral structural proteins [Altmann, *et al.*, *supra*; Campo,

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LINE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2002

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

 Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 1,314.00)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/042,526
Filing Date	January 8, 2002
First Named Inventor	Gissman
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Group Art Unit	TBD
Attorney Docket No.	27013/38150

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

 Check Credit Card Money Order Other None

Deposit Account

Deposit Account Number

13-2855

Deposit Account Name

Marshall, Gerstein & Borun

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to: (check all that apply)

 Charge fee(s) indicated below Credit any overpayments Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee

to the above-identified deposit account.

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

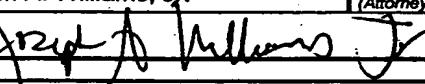
3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	130.00
127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
112	920*	112	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840*	113	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215	55	Extension for reply within first month	110.00
116	400	216	200	Extension for reply within second month	
117	920	217	460	Extension for reply within third month	
118	1,440	218	720	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128	1,960	228	980	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119	320	219	160	Notice of Appeal	
120	320	220	160	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121	280	221	140	Request for oral hearing	
138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141	1,280	241	640	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142	1,280	242	640	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	460	243	230	Design issue fee	
144	620	244	310	Plant issue fee	
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123	50	123	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
126	180	126	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146	740	246	370	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
149	740	249	370	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
179	740	279	370	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169	900	169	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	
Other fee (specify)					

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

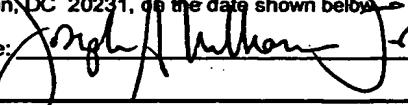
SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 240.00)

**or number previously paid, if greater. For Reissues, see above

SUBMITTED BY					
Name (Print/Type)	Joseph A. Williams, Jr.	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38,659	Telephone	312.474-6300
Signature				Date	April 15, 2002

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.

Dated: April 15, 2002

Signature:  (Name of Signer) Joseph A. Williams, Jr.

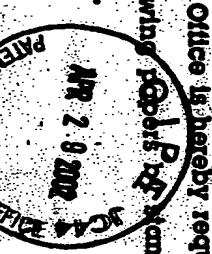
27013/38150

4/15/02 /16

The Patent Office is hereby requested to acknowledge receipt
of the following papers by stamping and returning this card.

Glessman et al.

10/042,536



Amendment transmittal 1,314.00 - ck# 71295

Information Disclosure Statement w/form PTO-1449;
Applicants' response to notice to file missing parts of
nonprovisional application; Appendix A - substitute spec.,
Appendix B - marked up copy of spec.,

with a Certificate of Mailing dated April 15, 2002

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2002

MARSHALL GERSTEIN

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

6300 SEARS TOWER

233 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-6357



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
10/042,526	01/08/2002	Lutz Gissman	27013/38150

04743
 MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
 6300 SEARS TOWER
 233 S. WACKER DRIVE
 CHICAGO, IL 60606

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2004

MARSHALL GERSTEIN

CONFIRMATION NO. 9119
 ABANDONMENT/TERMINATION
 LETTER



OC000000011719082

Date Mailed: 01/20/2004

NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.53 (f) OR (g)

The above-identified application is abandoned for failure to timely or properly reply to the Notice to File Missing Parts (Notice) mailed on 02/13/2002.

- No reply was received.

A petition to the Commissioner under 37 CFR 1.137 may be filed requesting that the application be revived.

Under 37 CFR 1.137(a), a petition requesting the application be revived on the grounds of **UNAVOIDABLE DELAY** must be filed promptly after the applicant becomes aware of the abandonment and such petition must be accompanied by: (1) an adequate showing of the cause of unavoidable delay; (2) the required reply to the above-identified Notice; (3) the petition fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(l); and (4) a terminal disclaimer if required by 37 CFR 1.137(d).

Under 37 CFR 1.137(b), a petition requesting the application be revived on the grounds of **UNINTENTIONAL DELAY** must be filed promptly after applicant becomes aware of the abandonment and such petition must be accompanied by: (1) a statement that the entire delay was unintentional; (2) the required reply to the above-identified Notice; (3) the petition fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m); and (4) a terminal disclaimer if required by 37 CFR 1.137(d).

Any questions concerning petitions to revive should be directed to the "Office of Petitions" at (703) 305-9282. Petitions should be mailed to: Mail Stop Petitions, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450.

*A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the reply.*

Customer Service Center

Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202

PART 1 - ATTORNEY/APPLICANT COPY

PATENT
Attorney Docket No: 27013/38150

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lutz Gissman and Martin Mueller) I hereby certify that this paper is being
Application Serial No. 10/042,526) deposited with the United States Postal
Filed: January 8, 2002) Service as First Class mail, postage
For: Papilloma Virus Capsomere) prepaid, in an envelope addressed to:
Vaccine Formulations and Methods of Use) Commissioner for Patents, Washington,
Group Art Unit: 1648) D.C. 20231, on April 15, 2002.
Examiner: TBD)

Eric M. Brusca

**APPLICANTS' RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF
NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In a Notice to File Missing Parts mailed February 2, 2002, various items were found to be missing in the above-identified application.

REMARKS

In order to avoid abandonment of the instant application, the Applicants file herewith a check covering the statutory basic filing fee and a late filing fee of \$130 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(l).

Additionally, a substitute specification in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52 is submitted herewith. The Applicants would like to point out that pages 1 and 2 of the specification have been corrected.

A copy of the Sequence Listing in computer readable form and corresponding statement that the content of the Sequence Listing information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written Sequence Listing has been previously filed in the related application U.S.S.N 09/632,286. Thus, the Applicants submit that in accordance with 37 CFR 1.821(e), the sequence listing in the instant application is identical to that of U.S.S.N 09/632,286. The Applicants request that the computer-readable sequence listing in U.S.S.N 09/632,286 be entered in the present application.

AMENDMENTS

In the specification:

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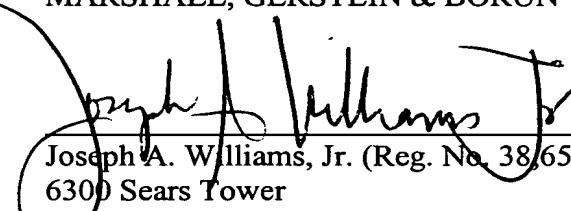
SUMMARY

In view of the amendments and remarks made herein, the Applicants believes that the application is formal and in good standing.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

By


Joseph A. Williams, Jr. (Reg. No. 38,659)
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6402
(312) 474-6300

APPENDIX A

PAPILLOMA VIRUS CAPSOMERE VACCINE FORMULATIONS AND METHODS OF USE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to vaccine formulations comprising papilloma virus proteins, either as fusion proteins, truncated proteins, or truncated fusion proteins. The invention further embraces methods for producing capsomeres of the formulations, as well as prophylactic and therapeutic methods for their use.

BACKGROUND

Infections with certain high-risk strains of genital papilloma viruses in humans (HPV) -- for example, HPV 16, 18, or 45 -- are believed to be the main risk factor for the formation of malignant tumors of the anogenital tract. Of the possible malignancies, cervical carcinoma is by far the most frequent: according to an estimate by the World Health Organization (WHO), almost 500,000 new cases of the disease occur annually. Because of the frequency with which this pathology occurs, the connection between HPV infection and cervical carcinoma has been extensively examined, leading to numerous generalizations.

For example, precursor lesions of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) are known to be caused by papilloma virus infections [Crum. *New Eng. J. Med.* 310:880-883 (1984)]. DNA from the genomes of certain HPV types, including for example, strains 16, 18, 33, 35, and 45, have been detected in more than 95% of tumor biopsies from patients with this disorder, as well as in primary cell lines cultured from the tumors. Approximately 50 to 70% of the biopsied CIN tumor cells have been found to include DNA derived only from HPV 16.

The protein products of the HPV 16 and HPV 18 early genes E6 and E7 have been detected in cervical carcinoma cell lines as well as in

5 human keratinocytes transformed *in vitro* [Wettstein, *et al.*, in PAPILLOMA VIRUSES AND HUMAN CANCER, Pfister (Ed.), CRC Press: Boca Raton, FL 1990 pp 155-179] and a significant percentage of patients with cervical carcinoma have anti-E6 or anti-E7 antibodies. The E6 and E7 proteins
10 have been shown to participate in induction of cellular DNA synthesis in human cells, transformation of human keratinocytes and other cell types, and tumor formation in transgenic mice [Arbelt, *et al.*, *J. Virol.*, 68:4358-4364 (1994); Auewarakul, *et al.*, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 14:8250-8258 (1994); Barbosa, *et al.*, *J. Virol.* 65:292-298 (1991); Kaur, *et al.*, *J. Gen. Virol.* 70:1261-1266 (1989); Schlegel, *et al.*, *EMBO J.*, 7:3181-3187 (1988)]. The constitutive expression of the E6/E7 proteins appears to be necessary to maintain the transformed condition of HPV-positive tumors.

15 Despite the capacity of some HPV strains to induce neoplastic phenotypes *in vivo* and *in vitro*, still other HPV types cause benign genital warts such as condylomata acuminata and are only rarely
20 associated with malignant tumors [Ikenberg. In Gross, *et al.*, (eds.) GENITAL PAPILLOMAVIRUS INFECTIONS. Springer Verlag: Berlin, pp., 87-112]. Low risk strains of this type include, for example, HPV 6 and 11.

25 Most often, genital papilloma viruses are transmitted between humans during intercourse which in many instances leads to persistent infection in the anogenital mucous membrane. While this observation suggests that either the primary infection induces an inadequate immune response or that the virus has developed the ability to avoid immune surveillance, other observations suggest that the immune system is active during primary manifestation as well as during malignant progression of papilloma virus infections [Altmann *et al.* in VIRUSES AND CANCER, Minson *et al.*, (eds.) Cambridge University Press, (1994) pp. 71-80].

30 For example, the clinical manifestation of primary infection by rabbit and bovine papilloma virus can be prevented by vaccination with wart extracts or viral structural proteins [Altmann, *et al.*, *supra*; Campo,

Curr. Top. In Microbiol and Immunol. 186:255-266 (1994); Yindle and Frazer, *Curr. Top. In Microbiol. and Immunol.* 186:217-253 (1994)]. Rodents previously vaccinated with vaccinia recombinants encoding HPV 16 early proteins E6 or E7, or with synthetic E6 or E7 peptides, are 5 similarly protected from tumor formation after inoculation of HPV 16 transformed autologous cells [Altman, *et al.*, *supra*; Campo, *et al.*, *supra*; Yindle and Frazer, *et al. supra*]. Regression of warts can be induced by the transfer of lymphocytes from regressor animals following infection by animal papilloma viruses. Finally, in immunosuppressed patients, such as, 10 for example, recipients of organ transplants or individuals infected with HIV, the incidence of genital warts, CIN, and anogenital cancer is elevated.

To date, no HPV vaccinations have been described which 15 comprise human papilloma virus late L1 protein in the form of capsomeres which are suitable both for prophylactic and therapeutic purposes. Since the L1 protein is not present in malignant genital lesions, vaccination with L1 protein does not have any therapeutic potential for these patients. Construction of chimeric proteins, comprising amino acid residues from L1 protein and, for example E6 or E7 protein, which give rise to chimeric 20 capsomeres, combines prophylactic and therapeutic functions of a vaccine. A method for high level production of chimeric capsomeres would therefore be particularly desirable, in view of the possible advantages offered by such a vaccine for prophylactic and therapeutic intervention.

Thus there exists a need in the art to provide vaccine 25 formulations which can prevent or treat HPV infection. Methods to produce vaccine formulations which overcome problems known in the art to be associated with recombinant HPV protein expression and purification would manifestly be useful to treat the population of individuals already infected with HPV as well as useful to immunize the population of 30 individuals susceptible to HPV infection.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides therapeutic and prophylactic vaccine formulations comprising chimeric human papilloma capsomeres. The invention also provides therapeutic methods for treating patients infected with an HPV as well as prophylactic methods for preventing HPV infection in a susceptible individual. Methods for production and purification of capsomeres and proteins of the invention are also contemplated.

In one aspect of the invention, prophylactic vaccinations for prevention of HPV infection are considered which incorporate the structural proteins L1 and L2 of the papilloma virus. Development of a vaccine of this type faces significant obstacles because papilloma viruses cannot be propagated to adequate titers in cell cultures or other experimental systems to provide the viral proteins in sufficient quantity for economical vaccine production. Moreover, recombinant methodologies to express the proteins are not always straightforward and often results in low protein yield. Recently, virus-like particles (VLPs), similar in make up to viral capsid structures, have been described which are formed in Sf-9 insect cells upon expression of the viral proteins L1 and L2 (or L1 on its own) using recombinant vaccinia or baculovirus. Purification of the VLPs can be achieved very simply by means of centrifugation in CsCl or sucrose gradients [Kimbauer, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA)*, 99:12180-12814 (1992); Kimbauer, *et al.*, *J. Virol.* 67:6929-6936 (1994); Proso, *et al.*, *J. Virol.* 67:1936-1944 (1992); Sasagawa, *et al.*, *Virology* 2016:126-195 (1995); Volpers, *et al.*, *J. Virol.* 69:3258-3264 (1995); Zhou, *et al.*, *J. Gen. Virol.* 74:762-769 (1993); Zhou, *et al.*, *Virology* 185:251-257 (1991)]. WO 93/02184 describes a method in which papilloma virus-like particles (VLPs) are used for diagnostic applications or as a vaccine against infections caused by the papilloma virus. WO 94/00152 describes

recombinant production of L1 protein which mimics the conformational neutralizing epitope on human and animal papilloma virions.

In another aspect of the invention, therapeutic vaccinations are provided to relieve complications of, for example, cervical carcinoma or precursor lesions resulting from papilloma virus infection, and thus represent an alternative to prophylactic intervention. Vaccinations of this type may comprise early papilloma virus proteins, principally E6 or E7, which are expressed in the persistently infected cells. It is assumed that, following administration of a vaccination of this type, cytotoxic T-cells might be activated against persistently infected cells in genital lesions. The target population for therapeutic intervention is patients with HPV-associated pre-malignant or malignant genital lesions. PCT patent application WO 93/20844 discloses that the early protein E7 and antigenic fragments thereof of the papilloma virus from HPV or BPV is therapeutically effective in the regression, but not in the prevention, of papilloma virus tumors in mammals. While early HPV proteins have been produced by recombinant expression in *E. coli* or suitable eukaryotic cell types, purification of the recombinant proteins has proven difficult due to inherent low solubility and complex purification procedures which generally require a combination of steps, including ion exchange chromatography, gel filtration and affinity chromatography.

According to the present invention, vaccine formulations comprising papilloma virus capsomeres are provided which comprise either: (i) a first protein that is an intact viral protein expressed as a fusion protein comprised in part of amino acid residues from a second protein; (ii) a truncated viral protein; (iii) a truncated viral protein expressed as a fusion protein comprised in part of amino acid residues from a second protein, or (iv) some combination of the three types of proteins. According to the invention, vaccine formulations are provided comprising capsomeres of bovine papilloma virus (BPV) and human papilloma virus. Preferred

bovine virus capsomeres comprise protein from bovine papilloma virus type

I. Preferred human virus capsomeres comprise proteins from any one of human papilloma virus strains HPV6, HPV11, HPV16, HPV18, HPV33, HPV35, and HPV45. The most preferred vaccine formulations comprise

5 capsomeres comprising proteins from HPV16.

In one aspect, capsomere vaccine formulations of the invention comprise a first intact viral protein expressed as a fusion protein with additional amino acid residues from a second protein. Preferred intact viral proteins are the structural papilloma viral proteins L1 and L2.

10 Capsomeres comprised of intact viral protein fusions may be produced using the L1 and L2 proteins together or the L1 protein alone. Preferred capsomeres are made up entirely of L1 fusion proteins, the amino acid sequence of which is set out in SEQ ID NO: 2 and encoded by the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1. Amino acids of the second

15 protein can be derived from numerous sources (including amino acid residues from the first protein) as long as the addition of the second protein amino acid residues to the first protein permits formation of capsomeres.

Preferably, addition of the second protein amino acid residues inhibits the ability of the intact viral protein to form virus-like particle structures; most preferably, the second protein amino acid residues promote capsomere

20 formation. In one embodiment of the invention, the second protein may be any human tumor antigen, viral antigen, or bacterial antigen which is important in stimulating an immune response in neoplastic or infectious disease states. In a preferred embodiment, the second protein is also a papilloma virus protein. It is also preferred that the second protein be the expression product of papilloma virus early gene. It is also preferred, however, that the second protein be selected from group of E1, E2, E3,

25 E4, E5, E6, and E7 -- early gene products encoded in the genome of papilloma virus strains HVP6, HPV11, HPV18, HPV33, HPV35, or HPV
30 45. It is most preferred that the second protein be encoded by the HPV16

E7 gene, the open reading frame of which is set out in SEQ ID NO: 3. Capsomeres assembled from fusion protein subunits are referred to herein as chimeric capsomeres. In one embodiment, the vaccine formulation of the invention is comprised of chimeric capsomeres wherein L1 protein 5 amino acid residues make up approximately 50 to 99% of the total fusion protein amino acid residues. In another embodiment, L1 amino acid residues make up approximately 60 to 90% of the total fusion protein amino acid residues; in a particularly preferred embodiment, L1 amino acids comprise approximately 80% of the fusion protein amino acid 10 residues.

In another aspect of the invention, capsomere vaccine formulations are provided that are comprised of truncated viral proteins having a deletion of one or more amino acid residues necessary for formation of a virus-like particle. It is preferred that the amino acid deletion not inhibit formation of capsomeres by the truncated protein, and it is most preferred that the deletion favor capsomere formation. Preferred 15 vaccine formulations of this type include capsomeres comprised of truncated L1 with or without L2 viral proteins. Particularly preferred capsomeres are comprised of truncated L1 proteins. Truncated proteins contemplated by the invention include those having one or more amino acid 20 residues deleted from the carboxy terminus of the protein, or one or more amino acid residues deleted from the amino terminus of the protein, or one or more amino acid residues deleted from an internal region (*i.e.*, not from either terminus) of the protein. Preferred capsomere vaccine formulations 25 are comprised of proteins truncated at the carboxy terminus. In formulations including L1 protein derived from HPV16, it is preferred that from 1 to 34 carboxy terminal amino acid residues are deleted. Relatively shorter deletions are also contemplated which offer the advantage of minor modification of the antigenic properties of the L1 proteins and the 30 capsomeres formed thereof. It is most preferred, however, that 34 amino

acid residues be deleted from the L1 sequence, corresponding to amino acids 472 to 505 in HPV16 set out in SEQ ID NO: 2, and encoded by the polynucleotide sequence corresponding to nucleotides 1414 to 1516 in the human HPV16 L1 coding sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 1.

5 When a capsomere vaccine formulation is made up of proteins bearing an internal deletion, it is preferred that the deleted amino acid sequence comprise the nuclear localization region of the protein. In the L1 protein of HPV 16, the nuclear localization signal is found from about amino acid residue 499 to about amino acid residue 505. Following 10 expression of L1 proteins wherein the NLS has been deleted, assembly of capsomere structures occurs in the cytoplasm of the host cell. Consequently, purification of the capsomeres is possible from the 15 cytoplasm instead of from the nucleus where intact L1 proteins assemble into capsomeres. Capsomeres which result from assembly of truncated proteins wherein additional amino acid sequences do not replace the deleted protein sequences are necessarily not chimeric in nature.

20 In still another aspect of the invention, capsomere vaccine formulations are provided comprising truncated viral protein expressed as a fusion protein adjacent amino acid residues from a second protein. Preferred truncated viral proteins of the invention are the structural 25 papilloma viral proteins L1 and L2. Capsomeres comprised of truncated viral protein fusions may be produced using L1 and L2 protein components together or L1 protein alone. Preferred capsomeres are those comprised of L1 protein amino acid residues. Truncated viral protein components of the fusion proteins include those having one or more amino acid residues deleted from the carboxy terminus of the protein, or one or more amino acid residues deleted from the amino terminus of the protein, or one or more amino acid residues deleted from an internal region (*i.e.*, not from either terminus) of the protein. Preferred capsomere vaccine formulations 30 are comprised of proteins truncated at the carboxy terminus. In those

formulations including L1 protein derived from HPV16, it is preferred that from 1 to 34 carboxy terminal amino acid residues are deleted. Relatively shorter deletions are also contemplated that offer the advantage of minor modification of the antigenic properties of the L1 protein component of the 5 fusion protein and the capsomeres formed thereof. It is most preferred, however, that 34 amino acid residues be deleted from the L1 sequence, corresponding to amino acids 472 to 505 in HPV16 set out in SEQ ID NO: 2, and encoded by the polynucleotide sequence corresponding to nucleotides 1414 to 1516 in the human HPV16 L1 coding sequence set out 10 in SEQ ID NO: 1. When the vaccine formulation is comprised of capsomeres made up of proteins bearing an internal deletion, it is preferred that the deleted amino acid sequence comprise the nuclear localization region, or sequence, of the protein.

15 Amino acids of the second protein can be derived from numerous sources as long as the addition of the second protein amino acid residues to the first protein permits formation of capsomeres. Preferably, addition of the second protein amino acid residues promotes or favors capsomere formation. Amino acid residues of the second protein can be derived from numerous sources, including amino acid residues from the 20 first protein. In a preferred embodiment, the second protein is also a papilloma virus protein. It also preferred that the second protein be the expression product of papilloma virus early gene. It is most preferred, however, that the second protein be selected from group of early gene products encoding by papilloma virus E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, and E7 25 genes. In one embodiment, the vaccine formulation of the invention is comprised of chimeric capsomeres wherein L1 protein amino acid residues make up approximately 50 to 99% of the total fusion protein amino acid residues. In another embodiment, L1 amino acid residues make up approximately 60 to 90% of the total fusion protein amino acid residues; in

a particularly preferred embodiment, L1 amino acids comprise approximately 80% of the fusion protein amino acid residues.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, proteins of the vaccine formulations are produced by recombinant methodologies, but in formulations comprising intact viral protein, the proteins may be isolated from natural sources. Intact proteins isolated from natural sources may be modified *in vitro* to include additional amino acid residues to provide a fusion protein of the invention using covalent modification techniques well known and routinely practiced in the art. Similarly, in formulations comprising truncated viral proteins, the proteins may be isolated from natural sources as intact proteins and hydrolyzed *in vitro* using chemical hydrolysis or enzymatic digestion with any of a number of site-specific or general proteases, the truncated protein subsequently modified to include additional amino acid resides as described above to provide a truncated fusion protein of the invention.

In producing capsomeres, recombinant molecular biology techniques can be utilized to produce DNA encoding either the desired intact protein, the truncated protein, or the truncated fusion protein. Recombinant methodologies required to produce a DNA encoding a desired protein are well known and routinely practiced in the art. Laboratory manuals, for example Sambrook, *et al.*, (eds.), **MOLECULAR CLONING: A LABORATORY MANUAL**, Cold Spring Harbor Press: Cold Spring Harbor, NY (1989) and Ausebel *et al.*, (eds.), **PROTOCOLS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (1994-1997), describe in detail techniques necessary to carry out the required DNA manipulations. For large-scale production of chimeric capsomeres, protein expression can be carried out using either viral or eukaryotic vectors. Preferable vectors include any of the well known prokaryotic expression vectors, recombinant baculoviruses, COS cell specific vectors, vaccinia recombinants, or yeast-specific expression constructs. When recombinant proteins are used to

provide capsomeres of the invention, the proteins may first be isolated from the host cell of its expression and thereafter incubated under conditions which permit self-assembly to provide capsomeres. Alternatively, the proteins may be expressed under conditions wherein capsomeres are formed 5 in the host cell.

The invention also contemplates processes for producing capsomeres of the vaccine formulations. In one method, L1 proteins are expressed from DNA encoding six additional histidines at the carboxy terminus of the L1 protein coding sequence. L1 proteins expressed with 10 additional histidines (His L1 proteins) are most preferably expressed in *E. coli* and the His L1 proteins can be purified using nickel affinity chromatography. His L1 proteins in cell lysate are suspended in a denaturation buffer, for example, 6 M guanidine hydrochloride or a buffer of equivalent denaturing capacity, and then subjected to nickel 15 chromatography. Protein eluted from the nickel chromatography step is renatured, for example in 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM CaCl₂, 0.01% Triton-X 100, 10 mM HEPES (N-2-hydroxyethyl piperazine-N'-2 ethane sulfonic acid), pH 7.4. According to a preferred method of the invention, assembly 20 of capsomeres takes place after dialysis of the purified proteins, preferably after dialysis against 150 mM NaCl, 25 mM Ca²⁺, 10% DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide), 0.1% Triton-X 100, 10 mM Tris [tris-(hydroxymethyl) amino-methane] acetic acid with a pH value of 5.0.

Formation of capsomeres can be monitored by electron 25 microscopy, and, in instances wherein capsomeres are comprised of fusion proteins, the presence of various protein components in the assembled capsomere can be confirmed by Western blot analysis using specific antisera.

According to the present invention, methods are provided for therapeutic treatment of individuals infected with HPV comprising the step 30 of administering to a patient in need thereof an amount of a vaccine

formulation of the invention effective to reduce the level of HPV infection. The invention also provide methods for prophylactic treatment of individuals susceptible to HPV infection comprising the step of administering to an individual susceptible to HPV infection an amount of a 5 vaccine formulation of the invention effective to prevent HPV infection. While infected individuals can be easily identified using standard diagnostic techniques, susceptible individuals may be identified, for example, as those engaged in sexual relations with an infected individual. However, due to the high frequency of HPV infection, all sexually active persons are 10 susceptible to papilloma virus infection.

Administration of a vaccine formulation can include one or more additional components such as pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents, adjuvants, and/or buffers. Vaccines may be administered at a single time or at multiple times. Vaccine formulation of the invention may 15 be delivered by various routes including, for example, oral, intravenous, intramuscular, nasal, rectal, transdermal, vaginal, subcutaneous, and intraperitoneal administration.

Vaccine formulations of the invention offer numerous advantages when compared to conventional vaccine preparations. As part 20 of a therapeutic vaccination, capsomeres can promote elimination of persistently infected cells in, for example, patients with CIN or cervical carcinoma. Additionally, therapeutic vaccinations of this type can also serve a prophylactic purpose in protecting patients with CIN lesions from re-infection. As an additional advantage, capsomeres can escape 25 neutralization by pre-existing anticapsid antibodies and thereby posses longer circulating half-life as compared to chimeric virus-like particles.

Vaccine formulations comprising chimeric capsomeres can provide the additional advantage of increased antigenicity of both protein components of the fusion protein from which the capsomere is formed. 30 For example, in a VLP, protein components of the underlying capsomere

may be buried in the overall structure as a result of internalized positioning within the VLP itself. Similarly, epitopes of the protein components may be sterically obstructed as a result of capsomere-to-capsomere contact, and therefore unaccessible for eliciting an immune response. Preliminary 5 results using L1/E7 fusion proteins to produce VLPs support this position in that no antibody response was detected against the E7 component. This observation is consistent with previous results which indicate that the carboxy terminal region of L1 forms inter-pentameric arm structures that allow assembly of capsomeres into capsids [Garcia, *et al.*, *J. Virol.* 71: 10 2988-2995 (1997)]. Presumably in a chimeric capsomere structure, both protein components of the fusion protein substructure are accessible to evoke an immune response. Capsomere vaccines would therefore offer the additional advantage of increased antigenicity against any protein component, including, for example, neutralizing epitopes from other virus 15 proteins, expressed as a fusion with L1 amino acid sequences.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is illustrated by the following examples. Example 1 describes construction of expression vectors to produce fusion, or chimeric, viral proteins. Example 2 relates to 20 generation of recombinant baculoviruses for expression of viral proteins. Example 3 addresses purification of capsomeres. Example 4 describes an immunization protocol for production of antisera and monoclonal antibodies. Example 5 provides a peptide **ELISA** to quantitate capsomere formation. Example 6 describes an antigen capture **ELISA** to quantitate 25 capsomere formation. Example 7 provides a hemagglutinin assay to assay for the induction of neutralizing antibodies.

Example 1
Construction of Chimeric L1 Genes

DNA encoding the HPV 16 L1 open reading frame was excised from plasmid 16-114/k-L1/L2-pSynxtVI [Kirnbauer *et al.*, *J. Virol.* 67:6929-6936 (1994)] using *Bgl*II and the resulting fragment subcloned into pUC19 (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA) previously linearized at the unique *Bam*HI restriction site. Two basic expression constructs were first generated to permit subsequent insertion of DNA to allow fusion protein expression. One construct encoded HPV 16 L1 Δ 310 having a nine amino acid deletion; the deleted region was known to show low level homology with all other papilloma virus L1 proteins. The second construct, HPV 16 L1 Δ C, encoded a protein having a 34 amino acid deletion of the carboxy terminal L1 residues. Other constructs include an *Eco*RV restriction site at the position of the deletion for facilitated insertion of DNA encoding other protein sequences. Addition of the *Eco*RV site encodes two non-L1 protein amino acids, aspartate and isoleucine.

A. Generation of an HPV 16 L1 Δ 310 expression construct

Two primers (SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 6) were designed to amplify the pUC19 vector and the complete HPV 16 L1 coding sequence, except nucleotides 916 through 942 in SEQ ID NO: 1. Primers were synthesized to also introduce a unique *Eco*RV restriction site (underlined in SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 6) at the termini of the amplification product.

CCCCGATATCGCCTTAATGTATAAATCGTCTGG
SEQ ID NO: 5

25 CCCCCGATATCTCAAATTATTTCCTACACCTAGTG
SEQ ID NO: 6

The resulting PCR product was digested with *Eco*RV to provide complementary ends and the digestion product circularized by ligation.

Ligated DNA was transformed into *E. coli* using standard techniques and plasmids from resulting colonies were screened for the presence of an *EcoRV* restriction site. One clone designated HPV 16 L1 Δ 310 was identified as having the appropriate twenty-seven nucleotide deletion and 5 this construct was used to insert DNA fragments encoding other HPV 16 proteins at the *EcoRV* site as discussed below.

B. Generation of an HPV 16 L1 Δ C expression constructs

Two primers (SEQ ID NOs: 7 and 8) were designed complementary to the HPV 16 L1 open reading frame such that the primers 10 abutted each other to permit amplification in reverse directions on the template DNA comprising HPV 16 L1-encoding sequences in pUC19 described above.

AAAGATATCTTGTAGTAAAAATTGCGTCCTAAAGGAAAC
SEQ ID NO: 7

15 AAAGATATCTAATCTACCTCTACAACTGCTAAACGCAAAAAACG
SEQ ID NO: 8

Each primer introduced an *EcoRV* restriction site at the terminus of the amplification product. In the downstream primer (SEQ ID NO: 8), the *EcoRV* site was followed by a TAA translational stop codon positioned 20 such that the amplification product, upon ligation of the *EcoRV* ends to circularize, would include deletion of the 34 carboxy terminal L1 amino acids. PCR was performed to amplify the partial L1 open reading frame and the complete vector. The amplification product was cleaved with *EcoRV*, circularized with T4 DNA ligase, and transformed into *E. coli* DH5 α cells. Plasmids from viable clones were analyzed for the presence 25 of an *EcoRV* site which would linearize the plasmid. One positive

construct designated pUCHPV16L1ΔC was identified and used to insert DNA from other HPV 16 proteins utilizing the *EcoRV* site.

C. Insertion of DNA fragments into HPV 16 L1 Δ310 and HPV16L1ΔC

DNA fragments of HPV 16 E7 encoding amino acids 1-50,

5 1-60, 1-98, 25-75, 40-98, 50-98 in SEQ ID NO: 4 were amplified using primers that introduced terminal 5' *EcoRV* restriction sites in order to facilitate insertion of the fragment into either HPV 16 L1 Δ310 and HPV16L1ΔC modified sequence. In the various amplification reactions, primer E7.1 (SEQ ID NO: 9) was used in combination with primer E7.2

10 (SEQ ID NO: 10) to generate a DNA fragment encoding E7 amino acids 1-50; with primer E7.3 (SEQ ID NO: 11) generate a DNA fragment encoding E7 amino acids 1-60; or with primer E7.4 (SEQ ID NO: 12) generate a DNA fragment encoding E7 amino acids 1-98. In other amplification reactions, primer pairs E7.5 (SEQ ID NO: 13) and E7.6

15 (SEQ ID NO: 14) were used to amplify a DNA fragment encoding E7 amino acids 25-75; E7.7 (SEQ ID NO: 15) and E7.4 (SEQ ID NO: 12) were used to amplify a DNA fragment encoding E7 amino acids 40-98; and E7.8 (SEQ ID NO: 16) and E7.4 (SEQ ID NO: 12) were used to amplify a DNA fragment encoding E7 amino acids 50-98.

20 Primer E7.1 SEQ ID NO: 9
AAAAGATATCATGCATGGAGATACACCTACATTGC

Primer E7.2 SEQ ID NO: 10
TTTTGATATCGGCTCTGTCCGGTTCTGCTTGTCC

25 Primer E7.3 SEQ ID NO: 11
TTTTGATATCCTTGCAACAAAAGGTTACAATATTGTAATGGGCC

Primer E7.4 SEQ ID NO: 12
AAAAGATATCTGGTTCTGAGAACAGATGGGGCAC

Primer E7.5 SEQ ID NO: 13
TTTGATATCGATTATGAGCAATTAAATGACAGCTCAG

5 Primer E7.6 SEQ ID NO: 14
TTTGATATCGTCTACGTGTGCTTGTACGCAC

Primer E7.7 SEQ ID NO: 15
TTTATCGATATCGGTCCAGCTGGACAAGCAGAACCGGAC

10 Primer E7.8 SEQ ID NO: 16
TTTGATATCGATGCCATTACAATATTGTAACCTTTG

Similarly, nucleotides from DNA encoding the influenza matrix protein (SEQ ID NO: 17) was amplified using the primer pair set out in SEQ ID NOs: 19 and 20. Both primers introduced an *EcoRV* restriction site in the amplification product.

15 TTTGATATCGATATGGAATGGCTAAAGACAAGACCAATC SEQ ID NO: 19

TTTGATATCGTTGTTGGATCCCCATTCCCATTG SEQ ID NO: 20

20 PCR products from each amplification reaction were cleaved with *EcoRV* and inserted into the *EcoRV* site of either the HPV 16 L1 Δ 310 and HPV16L1 Δ C sequences previously linearized with the same enzyme. In order to determine the orientation of inserts in plasmids encoding E7 amino acids 25-75 and 50-98 and plasmid including influenza matrix protein, *ClaI* digestion was employed, taking advantage of a

restriction site overlapping the newly created *EcoRV* restriction site (GATATCGAT) and included in the upstream primer. For the three expression constructs including the initiating methionine of HPV16 E7, insert orientation was determined utilizing a *NsII* restriction site within the 5 E7 coding region.

Once expression constructs having appropriate inserts were identified, the protein coding region for both L1 and inserted amino acids was excised as a unit using restriction enzymes *Xba*I and *Sma*I and the isolated DNA ligated into plasmid pVL1393 (Invitrogen) to generate 10 recombinant baculoviruses.

D. Elimination of *EcoRV* Restriction Sites in Expression Constructs

The HPV 16 L1 Δ C sequence includes DNA from the *EcoRV* site that results in translation of amino acids not normally found in wild-type L1 polypeptides. Thus, a series of expression constructions was 15 designed in which the artificial *EcoRv* site was eliminated. The L1 sequence for this series of expression constructs was designated HPV 16L1 Δ C*.

To generate an expression construct containing the HPV 16L1 Δ C* sequence, two PCR reactions were performed to amplify two 20 overlapping fragments from the pUC-HPV16 L1 Δ C encoding E7 amino acids 1-50. The resulting DNA fragments overlapped at the position of the L1/E7 boundary but did not contain the two *EcoRV* restriction sites. Fragment 1 was generated using primers P1 (SEQ ID NO: 21) and P2 (SEQ ID NO: 22) and fragment 2 using primers P3 (SEQ ID NO: 23) and 25 P4 (SEQ ID NO: 24).

Primer P1	SEQ ID NO: 21
GTTATGACATACATACATTCTATG	

Primer P2	SEQ ID NO: 22
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CCATGCATTCTGCTTGTAGTAAAAATTGCGTCC

Primer P3 SEQ ID NO: 23
CTACAAGCAGGAATGCATGGAGATACACC

Primer P4 SEQ ID NO: 24
5 CATCTGAAGCTTAGTAATGGGCTCTGTCCGGTTCTG

Following the first two amplification reactions, the two purified products were used as templates in another PCR reaction using primers P1 and P4 only. The resulting amplification product was digested with enzymes *Eco*NI and *Hind*III inserted into the HPV 16L1 Δ C expression construct described above following digestion with the same enzymes. The resulting expression construct differed from the original HPV16L1 Δ C construct with DNA encoding L1 and E7 amino acids 1-50 by loss of the two internal *Eco*RV restriction sites. The first *Eco*RV site was replaced by DNA encoding native L1 alanine and glycine amino acids in 10 this position and the second was replaced by a translational stop signal. In addition, the expression construct, designated HPV 16 L1 Δ C* E7 1-52, contained the first 52 amino acids of HPV 16 E7 as a result of using primer P4 which also encodes E7 amino acids residues histidine at position 15 51 and tyrosine at position 52. HPV 16 L1 Δ C* E7 1-52 was then used to generate additional HPV 16 L1 Δ C expression constructs further including 20 DNA encoding E7 amino acids 1-55 using primer P1 (SEQ ID NO: 21) in combination with primer P5 (SEQ ID NO: 25), E7 amino acids 1-60 with primer pair P1 and P6 (SEQ ID NO: 26), and E7 amino acids 1-65 with primer pair P1 and P7 (SEQ ID NO: 27). The additional amino acid- 25 encoding DNA sequences in the amplification products arose from design of the primers to include additional nucleotides for the desired amino acids.

Primer P5 SEQ ID NO: 25
CATCTGAAGCTTAACAATATTGTAATGGGCTCTGTCCG

Primer P6 SEQ ID NO: 26
5 CATCTGAAGCTTACTTGCAACAAAAGGTTA-
CAATATTGTAATGGGCTCTGTCCG

Primer P7 SEQ ID NO: 27
CATCTGAAGCTTAAAGCGTAGAGTCACACTTGCAAC-
AAAAGGTTACAATATTGTAATGGGCTCTGTCCG

Similarly, HPV 16 L1 Δ C* E7 1-70 was generated using template DNA
10 encoding HPV 16 L1 Δ C* E7 1-66 and the primer pair P1 and P8 (SEQ ID
NO: 28).

Primer P8 SEQ ID NO: 28
15 CATCTGAAGCTTATTGTACGCACAAC-
CGAAGCGTAGAGTCACACTTG

Following each PCR reaction, the amplification products were digested
with *Eco*NI and *Hind*III and inserted into HPV16L1 Δ C previously digested
with the same enzymes. Sequences of each constructs were determined
using an Applied Biosystems Prism 377 sequencing instrument with
20 fluorescent chain terminating dideoxynucleotides [Prober *et al.*, *Science*
238:336-341 (1987)].

Example 2
Generation of Recombinant Baculoviruses

25 *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Sf9) cells were grown in suspension or
monolayer cultures at 27° in TNMFH medium (Sigma) supplemented with
10% fetal calf serum and 2 mM glutamine. For HPV 16 L1-based
recombinant baculovirus construction, Sf9 cells were transfected with 10 μ g
of transfer plasmid together with 2 μ g of linearized Baculo-Gold DNA

(PharMingen, San Diego, CA). Recombinant viruses were purified by according to manufacturer's suggested protocol.

To test for expression of HPV 16 L1 protein, 10^5 Sf9 cells were infected with baculovirus recombinant at a multiplicity of infection (m.o.i) of 5 to 10. After incubation for three to four days at 28°C, media was removed and cells were washed with PBS. The cells were lysed in SDS sample buffer and analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting using anti-HPV16 L1 and anti-HPV16 E7 antibodies.

In order to determine which of the chimeric L1 protein expression constructs would preferentially produce capsomeres, extracts from transfected cells were subjected to gradient centrifugation. Fractions obtained from the gradient were analyzed for L1 protein content by Western blotting and for VLP formation by electron microscopy. The results are shown in Table 1.

The intact HPV L1 protein, as well as the expression products HPV 16 L1Δ310 and HPV 16 L1ΔC, each were shown to produce capsomeres and virus-like particles in equal proportions. When E7 coding sequences were inserted into the HPV 16 L1Δ310 vector, only fusion proteins including E7 amino acids 1 to 50 produced gave rise to detectable capsomere formation.

When E7 encoding DNA was inserted into the HPV 16 L1ΔC vector, all fusion proteins were found to produce capsomeres; chimeric proteins including E7 amino acid residues 40-98 produced the highest level of exclusively capsomere structures. Chimeric proteins including E7 amino acids 1-98 and 25-75 both produced predominantly capsomeres, even thorough virus-like particle formation was also observed. The chimeric protein including E7 amino acids 1-60 resulted in nearly equal levels of capsomere and virus-like particle production.

When E7 sequences were inserted into the HPV 16 L1Δ*C vector, all fusion proteins were shown to produce capsomeres. Insertion of

DNA encoding E7 residues 1-52, 1-55, and 1-60 produced the highest level of capsomeres, but equal levels of virus-like particle production were observed. While insertion of DNA encoding E7 DNA for residues 1-65, 1-70, 25-75, 40-98, and 1-98 resulted in comparatively lower levels or 5 undetectable levels of capsid, capsomeres were produced in high quantities.

TABLE 1
Capsomere and Capsid Forming Capacity of
Chimeric HPV L1 Proteins

	<u>L1 Expression Construct</u>	<u>Insert</u>	<u>Capsomere Yield</u>	<u>Capsid Yield</u>
10	HPV 16 L1	None	+++++	+++++
	HPV 16 L1Δ310	None	+++	++
	HPV 16 L1ΔC	None	+++	+++
	HPV 16 L1Δ310	E7 1-98	-	-
15	HPV 16 L1Δ310	E7 1-50	++	-
	HPV 16 L1Δ310	E7 25-75	-	-
	HPV 16 L1Δ310	E7 50-98	-	-
	HPV 16 L1ΔC	E7 1-98	++	+
	HPV 16 L1ΔC	E7 25-75	++	+
20	HPV 16 L1ΔC	E7 50-98	+	+
	HPV 16 L1ΔC	E7 1-60	+++++	+++++
	HPV 16 L1ΔC	E7 40-98	++	-
	HPV 16 L1ΔC	Influenza	++	+
	HPV 16 L1Δ*C	E7 1-52	++++	++++
25	HPV 16 L1Δ*C	E7 1-55	++++	++++
	HPV 16 L1Δ*C	E7 1-60	++	++
	HPV 16 L1Δ*C	E7 1-65	++	-
	HPV 16 L1Δ*C	E7 1-70	++	-

Example 3
Purification of Capsomeres

Trichopulsia ni (TN) High Five cells were grown to a density of approximately 2×10^6 cells/ml in Ex-Cell 405 serum-free medium (JRH Biosciences). Approximately 2×10^8 cells were pelleted by centrifugation at 1000 x g for 15 minutes, resuspended in 20 ml of medium, and infected with recombinant baculoviruses at m.o.i of 2 to 5 for 1 hour at room temperature. After addition of 200 ml medium, cells were plated and incubated for 3 to 4 days at 27°C. Following incubation, cells were harvested, pelleted, and resuspended in 10 ml of extraction buffer.

The following steps were performed at 4°C. Cells were sonicated for 45 seconds at 60 watts and the resulting cell lysate was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm in a Sorval SS34 rotor. The supernatant was removed and retained while the resulting pellet was resuspended in 6 ml of extraction buffer, sonicated for an additional 3 seconds at 60 watts, and centrifuged again. The two supernatants were combined, layered onto a two-step gradient containing 14 ml of 40% sucrose on top of 8 ml of CsCl solution (4.6 g CsCl per 8 ml in extraction buffer), and centrifuged in a Sorval AH629 swinging bucket rotor for 2 hours at 27,000 rpm at 10°C. The interface region between the CsCl and the sucrose along with the CsCl complete layer were collected into 13.4 ml Quickseal tubes (Beckman) and extraction buffer added to adjust the volume 13.4 ml. Samples were centrifuged overnight at 50,000 rpm at 20°C in a Beckman 70 TI rotor. Gradients were fractionated (1 ml per fraction) by puncturing tubes on top and bottom with a 21-gauge needle. Fractions were collected from each tube and 2.5 µl of each fraction were analyzed by a 10% SDS-polyacrylamide gel and Western blotting using an anti-HPV16 L1 antibody.

Virus-like particles and capsomeres were separated from the fractions identified above by sedimentation on 10 to 50% sucrose gradients. Peak fractions from CsCl gradients were pooled and dialyzed for 2 hours against 5 mM HEPES (pH 7.5). Half of the dialysate was used to produce capsomeres by disassembly of intact VLPs overnight by adding EDTA (final concentration 50 mM), EGTA (50

mM), DTT (30 mM), NaCl (100 mM), and Tris/HCl, pH 8.0, (10 mM). As control, NaCl and Tris/HCl only were added to the other half.

For analysis of capsomeres produced from disassembled VLPs, EDTA, EGTA, and DTT (final concentration 5 mM each) were added to the 5 sucrose cushions which were centrifuged at 250,000 x g for 2 to 4 hours at 4°C. Fractions were collected by puncturing tubes from the bottom. A 1:10 dilution of each fraction was then analyzed by antigen capture ELISA.

Example 4

10 Immunization Protocol for Production of Polyclonal Antisera and Monoclonal Antibodies

Balb/c mice are immunized subcutaneously three times, every four weeks with approximately 60 μ g of HPV chimeric capsomeres mixed 1:1 with complete or incomplete Freund's Adjuvants in a total volume of 100 μ l. Six weeks after the third immunization, mice are sacrificed and blood is collected by 15 cardiac puncture.

Example 5 Peptide ELISA to Quantitate Capsomere Formation

20 Microtiter plates (Dynatech) are coated overnight with 50 μ l of peptide E701 [Muller *et al.*, 1982] at a concentration of 10 μ g/ml in PBS. Wells are blocked for 2 hour at 37°C with 100 μ l of buffer containing 5% BSA and 0.05% Tween 20 in PBS and washed three times with PBS containing 0.05% Tween 20. After the third wash, 50 μ l of sera diluted 1:5000 in BSA/Tween 25 20/PBS is added to each well and incubation carried out for 1 hour. Plates are washed again as before and 50 μ l of goat-anti-mouse peroxidase conjugate is added at a 1:5000 dilution. After 1 hour, plates are washed and stained using ABTS substrate (0.2 mg/ml, 2,2'-Azino-bis(3-ethylbenzthiazoline- β -sulfonic acid in 0.1 M Na-Acetate-Phosphate buffer (pH 4.2) with 4 μ l 30% H₂O₂ per 10 ml). Extinction is measured after 1 hour at 490 nm in a Dynatech automated plate reader.

Example 6

Antigen Capture ELISA to Quantitate Capsomere Formation

To allow relative quantification of virus-like particles and capsomeres in fractions of CsCl gradients, an antigen capture ELISA was utilized.

5 Microtiter plates were coated overnight with 50 μ l/well of a 1:500 dilution (final concentration of 2 μ g per ml, in PBS) with a protein A purified mouse monoclonal antibody immunospecific for HPV 16 L1 (antibodies 25/C, MM07 and Ritti 1 were obtained from mice immunized with HPV 16 VLPs). Plates were blocked with 5% milk/PBS for 1 hour and 50 μ l of fractions of CsCl gradients were added 10 for 1 hour at 37°C using a 1:300 dilution (in 5% milk/PBS). After three washings with PBS/0.05% Tween 20, 50 μ l of a polyclonal rabbit antiserum (1:3000 dilution in milk/PBS), raised against HPV 16 VLPs was added and plates were incubated at 37° for 1 hour. Plates were washed again and further incubated with 50 μ l of a goat-anti-rabbit peroxidase conjugate (Sigma) diluted 1:5000 in PBS 15 containing 5% milk for 1 hour. After final washing, plates were stained with ABTS substrate for 30 minutes and extinction measured at 490 nm in a Dynatech automated plate reader. As a negative control, the assay also included wells coated only with PBS.

20 To test monoclonal antibodies for capsomere specificity, VLPs with EDTA/DTT to disassemble particles. Treated particle preparations were assayed in the antigen-capture ELISA and readings compared to untreated controls. For disassembly, 40 μ l of VLPs was incubated overnight at 4°C in 500 μ l of disruption buffer containing 30 mM DTT, 50 mM EGTA, 60 mM EDTA, 100 mM NaCl, and 100 mM Tris/HCl, pH 8.0. Aliquots of treated and untreated 25 particles were used in the above capture ELISA in a 1:20-1:40 dilution.

Example 7

Hemagglutinin Inhibition Assay

In order to determine the extent to which chimeric capsomere vaccines evoke production of neutralizing antibodies, a hemagglutination inhibition assay is carried out as briefly described below. This assay is based on previous 30

observations that virus-like particles are capable of hemagglutinating red blood cells.

Mice are immunized with any of a chimeric capsomere vaccine and sera is collected as described above in Example 4. As positive controls, HPV16 5 L1 virus like particles (VLPs) and bovine PV1 (BPV) L1 VLPs are assayed in parallel with a chimeric capsomere preparation. To establish a positive baseline, the HPV16 or BPV1 VLPs are first incubated with or without sera collected from immunized mice after which red blood cells are added. The extent to which preincubation with mouse sera inhibits red blood cell hemagglutination is an 10 indication of the neutralizing capacity of the mouse sera. The experiments are then repeated using chimeric capsomeres in order to determine the neutralizing effect of the mouse sera on the vaccine. A brief protocol for the hemagglutination inhibition assay is described below.

One hundred microliters of heparin (1000 usp units/ml) are added to 15 1 ml fresh mouse blood. Red blood cells are washed three times with PBS followed by centrifugation and resuspension in a volume of 10 ml. Next, erythrocytes are resuspended in 0.5 ml PBS and stored at 4°C for up to three days. For the hemagglutinin assay, 70 μ l of the suspension is used per well on a 96-well plate.

20 Chimeric capsomere aliquots from CsCl gradients are dialyzed for one hour against 10 mM Hepes (pH 7.5) and 100 μ l of two-fold serial dilutions in PBS are added to mouse erythrocytes in round-bottom 96-well microtiter plates which are further incubated for 3-16 hours at 4°C. For hemagglutination inhibition, capsomeres are incubated with dilutions of antibodies in PBS for 60 25 minutes at room temperature and then added to the erythrocytes. The level of erythrocyte hemagglutination, and therefore the presence of neutralizing antibodies, is determined by standard methods.

In preliminary results, mouse sera generated against chimeric capsomeres comprising HPV16L1 Δ C protein in association with E7 amino acid 30 residues 1-98 was observed to inhibit hemagglutination by HPV16 VLPs, but not

by BPV VLPs. The mouse sera was therefore positive for neutralizing antibodies against the human VLPs and this differential neutralization was most likely the result of antibody specificity for epitopes against which the antibodies were raised.

Numerous modifications and variations in the invention as set forth
5 in the above illustrative examples are expected to occur to those skilled in the art. Consequently only such limitations as appear in the appended claims should be placed on the invention.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT:

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Papilloma Virus Capsomere Vaccine Formulations and Methods of Use

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 27

(iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

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(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
(D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
(B) FILING DATE:
(C) CLASSIFICATION:

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(C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 27013/34028

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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 1518 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 1..1518

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

ATG TCT CTT TGG CTG CCT AGT GAG GCC ACT GTC TAC TTG CCT CCT GTC
Met Ser Leu Trp Leu Pro Ser Glu Ala Thr Val Tyr Leu Pro Pro Val
1 5 10 15

48

CCA GTA TCT AAG GTT GTA AGC ACG GAT GAA TAT GTT GCA CGC ACA AAC
Pro Val Ser Lys Val Val Ser Thr Asp Glu Tyr Val Ala Arg Thr Asn
20 25 30

96

ATA TAT TAT CAT GCA GGA ACA TCC AGA CTA CTT GCA GTT GGA CAT CCC Ile Tyr Tyr His Ala Gly Thr Ser Arg Leu Leu Ala Val Gly His Pro 35 40 45	144
TAT TTT CCT ATT AAA AAA CCT AAC AAT AAC AAA ATA TTA GTT CCT AAA Tyr Phe Pro Ile Lys Lys Pro Asn Asn Asn Lys Ile Leu Val Pro Lys 50 55 60	192
GTA TCA GGA TTA CAA TAC AGG GTA TTT AGA ATA CAT TTA CCT GAC CCC Val Ser Gly Leu Gln Tyr Arg Val Phe Arg Ile His Leu Pro Asp Pro 65 70 75 80	240
AAT AAG TTT GGT TTT CCT GAC ACC TCA TTT TAT AAT CCA GAT ACA CAG Asn Lys Phe Gly Phe Pro Asp Thr Ser Phe Tyr Asn Pro Asp Thr Gln 85 90 95	288
CGG CTG GTT TGG GCC TGT GTA GGT GTT GAG GTA GGT CGT GGT CAG CCA Arg Leu Val Trp Ala Cys Val Gly Val Glu Val Gly Arg Gly Gln Pro 100 105 110	336
TTA GGT GTG GGC ATT AGT GGC CAT CCT TTA TTA AAT AAA TTG GAT GAC Leu Gly Val Gly Ile Ser Gly His Pro Leu Leu Asn Lys Leu Asp Asp 115 120 125	384
ACA GAA AAT GCT AGT GCT TAT GCA GCA AAT GCA GGT GTG GAT AAT AGA Thr Glu Asn Ala Ser Ala Tyr Ala Ala Asn Ala Gly Val Asp Asn Arg 130 135 140	432
GAA TGT ATA TCT ATG GAT TAC AAA CAA ACA CAA TTG TGT TTA ATT GGT Glu Cys Ile Ser Met Asp Tyr Lys Gln Thr Gln Leu Cys Leu Ile Gly 145 150 155 160	480
TGC AAA CCA CCT ATA GGG GAA CAC TGG GGC AAA GGA TCC CCA TGT ACC Cys Lys Pro Pro Ile Gly Glu His Trp Gly Lys Gly Ser Pro Cys Thr 165 170 175	528
AAT GTT GCA GTA AAT CCA GGT GAT TGT CCA CCA TTA GAG TTA ATA AAC Asn Val Ala Val Asn Pro Gly Asp Cys Pro Pro Leu Glu Leu Ile Asn 180 185 190	576
ACA GTT ATT CAG GAT GGT GAT ATG GTT GAT ACT GGC TTT GGT GCT ATG Thr Val Ile Gln Asp Gly Asp Met Val Asp Thr Gly Phe Gly Ala Met 195 200 205	624
GAC TTT ACT ACA TTA CAG GCT AAC AAA AGT GAA GTT CCA CTG GAT ATT Asp Phe Thr Thr Leu Gln Ala Asn Lys Ser Glu Val Pro Leu Asp Ile 210 215 220	672
TGT ACA TCT ATT TGC AAA TAT CCA GAT TAT ATT AAA ATG GTG TCA GAA Cys Thr Ser Ile Cys Lys Tyr Pro Asp Tyr Ile Lys Met Val Ser Glu 225 230 235 240	720
CCA TAT GGC GAC AGC TTA TTT TAT TTA CGA AGG GAA CAA ATG TTT Pro Tyr Gly Asp Ser Leu Phe Phe Tyr Leu Arg Arg Glu Gln Met Phe 245 250 255	768
GTT AGA CAT TTA TTT AAT AGG GCT GGT GCT GTT GGT GAA AAT GTA CCA Val Arg His Leu Phe Asn Arg Ala Gly Ala Val Gly Glu Asn Val Pro 260 265 270	816
GAC GAT TTA TAC ATT AAA GGC TCT GGG TCT ACT GCA AAT TTA GCC AGT Asp Asp Leu Tyr Ile Lys Gly Ser Gly Ser Thr Ala Asn Leu Ala Ser 275 280 285	864

TCA AAT TAT TTT CCT ACA CCT AGT GGT TCT ATG GTT ACC TCT GAT GCC Ser Asn Tyr Phe Pro Thr Pro Ser Gly Ser Met Val Thr Ser Asp Ala	912
290 295 300	
CAA ATA TTC AAT AAA CCT TAT TGG TTA CAA CGA GCA CAG GGC CAC AAT Gln Ile Phe Asn Lys Pro Tyr Trp Leu Gln Arg Ala Gln Gly His Asn	960
305 310 315 320	
AAT GGC ATT TGT TGG GGT AAC CAA CTA TTT GTT ACT GTT GAT ACT Asn Gly Ile Cys Trp Gly Asn Gln Leu Phe Val Thr Val Val Asp Thr	1008
325 330 335	
ACA CGC AGT ACA AAT ATG TCA TTA TGT GCT GCC ATA TCT ACT TCA GAA Thr Arg Ser Thr Asn Met Ser Leu Cys Ala Ala Ile Ser Thr Ser Glu	1056
340 345 350	
ACT ACA TAT AAA AAT ACT AAC TTT AAG GAG TAC CTA CGA CAT GGG GAG Thr Thr Tyr Lys Asn Thr Asn Phe Lys Glu Tyr Leu Arg His Gly Glu	1104
355 360 365	
GAA TAT GAT TTA CAG TTT ATT TTT CAA CTG TGC AAA ATA ACC TTA ACT Glu Tyr Asp Leu Gln Phe Ile Phe Gln Leu Cys Lys Ile Thr Leu Thr	1152
370 375 380	
GCA GAC GTT ATG ACA TAC ATA CAT TCT ATG AAT TCC ACT ATT TTG GAG Ala Asp Val Met Thr Tyr Ile His Ser Met Asn Ser Thr Ile Leu Glu	1200
385 390 395 400	
GAC TGG AAT TTT GGT CTA CAA CCT CCC CCA GGA GGC ACA CTA GAA GAT Asp Trp Asn Phe Gly Leu Gln Pro Pro Pro Gly Gly Thr Leu Glu Asp	1248
405 410 415	
ACT TAT AGG TTT GTA ACC TCC CAG GCA ATT GCT TGT CAA AAA CAT ACA Thr Tyr Arg Phe Val Thr Ser Gln Ala Ile Ala Cys Gln Lys His Thr	1296
420 425 430	
CCT CCA GCA CCT AAA GAA GAT CCC CTT AAA AAA TAC ACT TTT TGG GAA Pro Pro Ala Pro Lys Glu Asp Pro Leu Lys Tyr Thr Phe Trp Glu	1344
435 440 445	
GTA AAT TTA AAG GAA AAG TTT TCT GCA GAC CTA GAT CAG TTT CCT TTA Val Asn Leu Lys Glu Lys Phe Ser Ala Asp Leu Asp Gln Phe Pro Leu	1392
450 455 460	
GGA CGC AAA TTT TTA CTA CAA GCA GGA TTG AAG GCC AAA CCA AAA TTT Gly Arg Lys Phe Leu Leu Gln Ala Gly Leu Lys Ala Lys Pro Lys Phe	1440
465 470 475 480	
ACA TTA GGA AAA CGA AAA GCT ACA CCC ACC ACC TCA TCT ACC TCT ACA Thr Leu Gly Lys Arg Lys Ala Thr Pro Thr Thr Ser Ser Thr Ser Thr	1488
485 490 495	
ACT GCT AAA CGC AAA AAA CGT AAG CTG TAA Thr Ala Lys Arg Lys Arg Lys Leu *	1518
500 505	

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 506 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

Met Ser Leu Trp Leu Pro Ser Glu Ala Thr Val Tyr Leu Pro Pro Val
1 5 10 15

Pro Val Ser Lys Val Val Ser Thr Asp Glu Tyr Val Ala Arg Thr Asn
20 25 30

Ile Tyr Tyr His Ala Gly Thr Ser Arg Leu Leu Ala Val Gly His Pro
35 40 45

Tyr Phe Pro Ile Lys Lys Pro Asn Asn Asn Lys Ile Leu Val Pro Lys
50 55 60

Val Ser Gly Leu Gln Tyr Arg Val Phe Arg Ile His Leu Pro Asp Pro
65 70 75 80

Asn Lys Phe Gly Phe Pro Asp Thr Ser Phe Tyr Asn Pro Asp Thr Gln
85 90 95

Arg Leu Val Trp Ala Cys Val Gly Val Glu Val Gly Arg Gly Gln Pro
100 105 110

Leu Gly Val Gly Ile Ser Gly His Pro Leu Leu Asn Lys Leu Asp Asp
115 120 125

Thr Glu Asn Ala Ser Ala Tyr Ala Ala Asn Ala Gly Val Asp Asn Arg
130 135 140

Glu Cys Ile Ser Met Asp Tyr Lys Gln Thr Gln Leu Cys Leu Ile Gly
145 150 155 160

Cys Lys Pro Pro Ile Gly Glu His Trp Gly Lys Gly Ser Pro Cys Thr
165 170 175

Asn Val Ala Val Asn Pro Gly Asp Cys Pro Pro Leu Glu Leu Ile Asn
180 185 190

Thr Val Ile Gln Asp Gly Asp Met Val Asp Thr Gly Phe Gly Ala Met
195 200 205

Asp Phe Thr Thr Leu Gln Ala Asn Lys Ser Glu Val Pro Leu Asp Ile
210 215 220

Cys Thr Ser Ile Cys Lys Tyr Pro Asp Tyr Ile Lys Met Val Ser Glu
225 230 235 240

Pro Tyr Gly Asp Ser Leu Phe Phe Tyr Leu Arg Arg Glu Gln Met Phe
245 250 255

Val Arg His Leu Phe Asn Arg Ala Gly Ala Val Gly Glu Asn Val Pro
260 265 270

Asp Asp Leu Tyr Ile Lys Gly Ser Gly Ser Thr Ala Asn Leu Ala Ser
275 280 285

Ser Asn Tyr Phe Pro Thr Pro Ser Gly Ser Met Val Thr Ser Asp Ala
290 295 300

Gln Ile Phe Asn Lys Pro Tyr Trp Leu Gln Arg Ala Gln Gly His Asn
305 310 315 320

Asn Gly Ile Cys Trp Gly Asn Gln Leu Phe Val Thr Val Val Asp Thr
325 330 335

Thr Arg Ser Thr Asn Met Ser Leu Cys Ala Ala Ile Ser Thr Ser Glu
340 345 350

Thr Thr Tyr Lys Asn Thr Asn Phe Lys Glu Tyr Leu Arg His Gly Glu
355 360 365

Glu Tyr Asp Leu Gln Phe Ile Phe Gln Leu Cys Lys Ile Thr Leu Thr
370 375 380

Ala Asp Val Met Thr Tyr Ile His Ser Met Asn Ser Thr Ile Leu Glu
385 390 395 400

Asp Trp Asn Phe Gly Leu Gln Pro Pro Pro Gly Gly Thr Leu Glu Asp
405 410 415

Thr Tyr Arg Phe Val Thr Ser Gln Ala Ile Ala Cys Gln Lys His Thr
420 425 430

Pro Pro Ala Pro Lys Glu Asp Pro Leu Lys Lys Tyr Thr Phe Trp Glu
435 440 445

Val Asn Leu Lys Glu Lys Phe Ser Ala Asp Leu Asp Gln Phe Pro Leu
450 455 460

Gly Arg Lys Phe Leu Leu Gln Ala Gly Leu Lys Ala Lys Pro Lys Phe
465 470 475 480

Thr Leu Gly Lys Arg Lys Ala Thr Pro Thr Thr Ser Ser Thr Ser Thr
485 490 495

Thr Ala Lys Arg Lys Lys Arg Lys Leu *
500 505

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 297 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
- (B) LOCATION: 1..297

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

ATG CAT GGA GAT ACA CCT ACA TTG CAT GAA TAT ATG TTA GAT TTG CAA
Met His Gly Asp Thr Pro Thr Leu His Glu Tyr Met Leu Asp Leu Gln
1 5 10 15

48

CCA GAG ACA ACT GAT CTC TAC TGT TAT GAG CAA TTA AAT GAC AGC TCA
Pro Glu Thr Thr Asp Leu Tyr Cys Tyr Glu Gln Leu Asn Asp Ser Ser
20 25 30

96

GAG GAG GAG GAT GAA ATA GAT GGT CCA GCT GGA CAA GCA GAA CCG GAC Glu Glu Glu Asp Glu Ile Asp Gly Pro Ala Gly Gln Ala Glu Pro Asp	144
35 40 45	
AGA GCC CAT TAC AAT ATT GTA ACC TTT TGT TGC AAG TGT GAC TCT ACG Arg Ala His Tyr Asn Ile Val Thr Phe Cys Cys Lys Cys Asp Ser Thr	192
50 55 60	
CTT CGG TTG TGC GTA CAA AGC ACA CAC GTA GAC ATT CGT ACT TTG GAA Leu Arg Leu Cys Val Gln Ser Thr His Val Asp Ile Arg Thr Leu Glu	240
65 70 75 80	
GAC CTG TTA ATG GGC ACA CTA GGA ATT GTG TGC CCC ATC TGT TCT CAG Asp Leu Leu Met Gly Thr Leu Gly Ile Val Cys Pro Ile Cys Ser Gln	288
85 90 95	
AAA CCA TAA Lys Pro *	297

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 98 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

Met His Gly Asp Thr Pro Thr Leu His Glu Tyr Met Leu Asp Leu Gln
1 5 10 15

Pro Glu Thr Thr Asp Leu Tyr Cys Tyr Glu Gln Leu Asn Asp Ser Ser
20 25 30

Glu Glu Glu Asp Glu Ile Asp Gly Pro Ala Gly Gln Ala Glu Pro Asp
35 40 45

Arg Ala His Tyr Asn Ile Val Thr Phe Cys Cys Lys Cys Asp Ser Thr
50 55 60

Leu Arg Leu Cys Val Gln Ser Thr His Val Asp Ile Arg Thr Leu Glu
65 70 75 80

Asp Leu Leu Met Gly Thr Leu Gly Ile Val Cys Pro Ile Cys Ser Gln
85 90 95

Lys Pro *

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 34 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

CCCCGATATC GCCTTTAATG TATAAATCGT CTGG

34

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

CCCCGATATC TCAAATTATT TTCCTACACC TAGTG

35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 40 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

AAAGATATCT TGTAGTAAAAA ATTTGCGTCC TAAAGGAAAC

40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 44 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

AAAGATATCT AATCTACCTC TACAACGTGCT AAACGCAAAA AACG

44

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

AAAAGATATC ATGCATGGAG ATACACCTAC ATTGC

35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 34 base pairs

- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

TTTTGATATC GGCTCTGTCC GGTTCTGCTT GTCC

34

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 44 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

TTTTGATATC CTTGCAACAA AAGGTTACAA TATTGTAATG GGCC

44

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

AAAAGATATC TGGTTTCTGA GAACAGATGG GGCAC

35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:13:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 38 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:13:

TTTTGATATC GATTATGAGC AATTAAATGA CAGCTCAG

38

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:14:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:14:

TTTGATATC GTCTACGTGT GTGCTTGTA CGCAC

35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:15:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 39 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:15:

TTTATCGATA TCGGTCCAGC TGGACAAGCA GAACCGGAC

39

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:16:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 39 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:16:

TTTGATATC GATGCCATT ACAATATTGT AACCTTTG

39

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:17:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 294 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 1..294

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:17:

ATG AGT CTT CTA ACC GAG GTC GAA ACG CTT ACC AGA AAC GGA TGG GAG
Met Ser Leu Leu Thr Glu Val Glu Thr Leu Thr Arg Asn Gly Trp Glu
1 5 10 15

48

TGC AAA TGC AGC GAT TCA AGT GAT CCT CTC ATT ATC GCA GCG AGT ATC
Cys Lys Cys Ser Asp Ser Asp Pro Leu Ile Ile Ala Ala Ser Ile
20 25 30

96

ATT GGG ATC TTG CAC TTG ATA TTG TGG ATT TTT TAT CGT CTT TTC TTC
Ile Gly Ile Leu His Leu Ile Leu Trp Ile Phe Tyr Arg Leu Phe Phe
35 40 45

144

AAA TGC ATT TAT CGT CGC CTT AAA TAC GGT TTG AAA AGA GGG CCT TCT
Lys Cys Ile Tyr Arg Arg Leu Lys Tyr Gly Leu Lys Arg Gly Pro Ser
50 55 60

192

ACG GAA GGA GCG CCT GAG TCT ATG AGG GAA GAA TAT CGG CAG GAA CAG	240
Thr Glu Gly Ala Pro Glu Ser Met Arg Glu Glu Tyr Arg Gln Glu Gln	
65 70 75 80	
CAG AGT GCT GTG GAT GTT GAC GAT GTT CAT TTT GTC AAC ATA GAG CTG	288
Gln Ser Ala Val Asp Val Asp Asp Val His Phe Val Asn Ile Glu Leu	
85 90 95	
GAG TAA	294
Glu *	

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:18:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 97 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:18:

Met Ser Leu Leu Thr Glu Val Glu Thr Leu Thr Arg Asn Gly Trp Glu	
1 5 10 15	
Cys Lys Cys Ser Asp Ser Ser Asp Pro Leu Ile Ile Ala Ala Ser Ile	
20 25 30	
Ile Gly Ile Leu His Leu Ile Leu Trp Ile Phe Tyr Arg Leu Phe Phe	
35 40 45	
Lys Cys Ile Tyr Arg Arg Leu Lys Tyr Gly Leu Lys Arg Gly Pro Ser	
50 55 60	
Thr Glu Gly Ala Pro Glu Ser Met Arg Glu Glu Tyr Arg Gln Glu Gln	
65 70 75 80	
Gln Ser Ala Val Asp Val Asp Val His Phe Val Asn Ile Glu Leu	
85 90 95	

Glu *

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:19:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 40 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:19:

TTTTGATATC GATATGGAAT GGCTAAAGAC AAGACCAATC

40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:20:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:20:

TTTGATATC GTTGTGGA TCCCCATTCC CATTG

35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:21:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:21:

GTTATGACAT ACATACATTC TATG

24

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:22:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:22:

CCATGCATTC CTGCTTGTAG TAAAAATTG CGTCC

35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:23:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 29 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:23:

CTACAAGCAG GAATGCATGG AGATACACC

29

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:24:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 36 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:24:

CATCTGAAGC TTAGTAATGG GCTCTGTCCG GTTCTG

36

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:25:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 38 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:25:

CATCTGAAGC TTATCAATAT TGTAATGGGC TCTGTCCG

38

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:26:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 54 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:26:

CATCTGAAGC TTACTTGCAA CAAAAGGTTA CAATATTGTA ATGGGCTCTG TCCG

54

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:27:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 69 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:27:

CATCTGAAGC TTAAAGCGTA GAGTCACACT TGCAACAAAA GGTTACAATA TTGTAATGGG

60

CTCTGTCCG

69

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:28:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 47 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:28:

CATCTGAAGC TTATTGTACG CACAACCGAA GCGTAGAGTC ACACITG

47

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vaccine formulation comprising a human papilloma virus capsomere, said capsomere comprising a fusion protein comprising a human papilloma virus L1 protein adjacent amino acid residues from a second protein.

2. A vaccine formulation comprising a human papilloma virus capsomere, said capsomere comprising a truncated human papilloma virus L1 protein having a deletion of one or more amino acid residues necessary for formation of a virus-like particle.

3. The vaccine formulation of claim 2 wherein said capsomere comprises a fusion protein comprising a truncated human papilloma virus L1 protein adjacent amino acid residues from a second protein.

4. The vaccine formulation of any one of claims 1,2, or 3 wherein the L1 protein is encoded in the genome of a human papilloma virus selected from the group consisting of HPV6, HPV11, HPV16, HPV18, HPV33, HPV35, and HPV45.

5. The vaccine formulation of claim 4 wherein the papilloma virus is HPV16.

6. The vaccine formulation of any one of claims 2, 3, or 5 wherein carboxy terminal amino acid residues are deleted from the L1 protein.

7. The vaccine formulation of claim 6 wherein 1 to 34 carboxy terminal amino acid residues are deleted from the L1 protein.

8. The vaccine formulation of claim 7 wherein 34 carboxy terminal amino acid residues are deleted from the L1 protein.

9. The vaccine formulation of any one of claims 2, 3, or 5 wherein amino terminal amino acid residues are deleted from the L1 protein.

10. The vaccine formulation of any one of claims 2, 3, or 5 wherein internal amino acid residues are deleted from the L1 protein.

11. The vaccine formulation of claim 10 wherein the amino acid residues deleted from the L1 protein comprise a nuclear localization signal.

12. The vaccine formulation of claims 2 or 3 wherein the amino acids residues from the second protein are derived from an HPV protein.

13. The vaccine formulation of claim 12 wherein the HPV protein is an early HPV protein.

14. The vaccine formulation of claim 12 wherein the early HPV protein is selected from the group consisting of E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, and E7.

15. A method of treating an individual infected with an HPV virus comprising the step of administering to a patient in need thereof an amount of the vaccine formulation of claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13 or 14 effective to reduce the level of HPV infection.

16. A method for preventing papilloma virus infection comprising the step of administering to an individual susceptible thereto an amount of the vaccine formulation of claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13 or 14 effective to inhibit HPV infection.

ABSTRACT

Vaccine formulations comprising viral capsomeres are disclosed along with methods for their production. Therapeutic and prophylactic methods of use for the vaccine formulations are also disclosed.

APPENDIX B

PAPILLOMA VIRUS CAPSOMERE VACCINE FORMULATIONS AND METHODS OF USE

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to vaccine formulations comprising papilloma virus proteins, either as fusion proteins, truncated proteins, or truncated fusion proteins. The invention further embraces methods for producing capsomeres of the formulations, as well as prophylactic and therapeutic methods for their use.

BACKGROUND

Infections with certain high-risk strains of genital papilloma viruses in humans (HPV) -- for example, HPV 16, 18, or 45 -- are believed to be the main risk factor for the formation of malignant tumors of the anogenital tract. Of the possible malignancies, cervical carcinoma is by far the most frequent: according to an estimate by the World Health Organization (WHO), almost 500,000 new cases of the disease occur annually. Because of the frequency with which this pathology occurs, the connection between HPV infection and cervical carcinoma has been extensively examined, leading to numerous generalizations.

For example, precursor lesions of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) are known to be caused by papilloma virus infections [Crum, *New Eng. J. Med.* 310:880-883 (1984)]. DNA from the genomes of certain HPV types, including for example, strains 16, 18, 33, 35, and 45, have been detected in more than 95 % of tumor biopsies from patients with this disorder, as well as in primary cell lines cultured from the tumors. Approximately 50 to 70% of the biopsied CIN tumor cells have been found to include DNA derived only from HPV 16.

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The protein products of the HPV 16 and HPV 18 early genes E6 and E7 have been detected in cervical carcinoma cell lines as well as in

human keratinocytes transformed *in vitro* [Wettstein, *et al.*, in PAPILLOMA VIRUSES AND HUMAN CANCER, Pfister (Ed.), CRC Press: Boca Raton, FL 1990 pp 155-179] and a significant percentage of patients with cervical carcinoma have anti-E6 or anti-E7 antibodies. The E6 and E7 proteins 5 have been shown to participate in induction of cellular DNA synthesis in human cells, transformation of human keratinocytes and other cell types, and tumor formation in transgenic mice [Arbelt, *et al.*, *J. Virol.*, 68:4358-4364 (1994); Auewarakul, *et al.*, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 14:8250-8258 (1994); 10 Barbosa, *et al.*, *J. Virol.* 65:292-298 (1991); Kaur, *et al.*, *J. Gen. Virol.* 70:1261-1266 (1989); Schlegel, *et al.*, *EMBO J.*, 7:3181-3187 (1988)]. The constitutive expression of the E6/E7 proteins appears to be necessary to maintain the transformed condition of HPV-positive tumors.

Despite the capacity of some HPV strains to induce neoplastic phenotypes *in vivo* and *in vitro*, still other HPV types cause 15 benign genital warts such as condylomata acuminata and are only rarely associated with malignant tumors [Ikenberg, In Gross, *et al.*, (eds.) GENITAL PAPILLOMAVIRUS INFECTIONS, Springer Verlag: Berlin, pp., 87-112]. Low risk strains of this type include, for example, HPV 6 and 11.

Most often, genital papilloma viruses are transmitted between 20 humans during intercourse which in many instances leads to persistent infection in the anogenital mucous membrane. While this observation suggests that either the primary infection induces an inadequate immune response or that the virus has developed the ability to avoid immune surveillance, other observations suggest that the immune system is active 25 during primary manifestation as well as during malignant progression of papilloma virus infections [Altmann *et al.* in VIRUSES AND CANCER, Minson *et al.*, (eds.) Cambridge University Press, (1994) pp. 71-80].

For example, the clinical manifestation of primary infection by rabbit and bovine papilloma virus can be prevented by vaccination with 30 wart extracts or viral structural proteins [Altmann, *et al.*, *supra*; Campo,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lutz Gissman and Martin
Mueller

Application Serial No. 10/042,526

Filed: January 8, 2002

For: Papilloma Virus Capsomere
Vaccine Formulations and Methods of
Use

Group Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: TBD

) I hereby certify that this paper is being
>) deposited with the United States Postal
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>) D.C. 20231, on April 15, 2002.

)

Eric M. Brusca

**APPLICANTS' RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF
NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In a Notice to File Missing Parts mailed February 2, 2002, various items
were found to be missing in the above-identified application.

REMARKS

In order to avoid abandonment of the instant application, the Applicants
>) file herewith a check covering the statutory basic filing fee and a late filing fee of \$130 as
set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(l).

Additionally, a substitute specification in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52 is
submitted herewith. The Applicants would like to point out that pages 1 and 2 of the
specification have been corrected.

A copy of the Sequence Listing in computer readable form and
corresponding statement that the content of the Sequence Listing information recorded in
computer readable form is identical to the written Sequence Listing has been previously
filed in the related application U.S.S.N 09/632,286. Thus, the Applicants submit that in
accordance with 37 CFR 1.821(e), the sequence listing in the instant application is
identical to that of U.S.S.N 09/632,286. The Applicants request that the computer-
readable sequence listing in U.S.S.N 09/632,286 be entered in the present application.

*Parent SN
09/632,286 does
not have a
valid CRF.*

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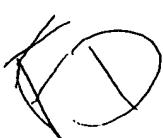
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valid C.R.F.